a. High Courts will consider either extending working hours upto 5½ hours or suitably increasing the working days;

b. High Court Judges be requested to work during vacation, on voluntary basis; and

c. High Court Judges will not go for holidaying on working days.

This Conference had also resolved that:

Wherever feasible, the High Courts will take steps to set-up Courts of Special Metropolitan Magistrates/Special Judicial Magistrates presided by retired government servants and court servants, possessing a professional degree in Law, for trial of petty offences, including traffic cases and cases under Local Municipal Acts. Such Special Magistrates/Special Judicial Magistrates shall work under the control and superintendence of a senior Judicial Officer.

(c) to (e) Working hours in the Supreme Court and High Courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective Courts. The working hours of the subordinate courts are decided by the respective High Courts. In matters of administration of subordinate courts such as appointment of judges, recruitment of persons other than judges, decision rests with the respective State Government in consultation with the concerned High Court.

Policy on judicial appointments

931. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy of Government under Article 16(4) of the Constitution is being implemented in judicial appointments, particularly to various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government is taking to ensure proper implementation of reservation policy in judicial appointments?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court is done as per the provisions of article 124 of the Constitution. Judges and Additional Judges of the High Courts are appointed as per the provisions of articles 217 and 224 respectively of the Constitution. Articles, 124, 217 or 224 of the Constitution do not provide for any reservation based on caste, class, creed or gender.

However, the Government has been requesting, from time to time, the Chief Justices of the High Courts, who initiate proposals for appointment of High Court Judges, to identify suitable candidates from SC/ST/OBC/Women and Minorities while recommending candidates for appointment as Judges of the High Courts.

The administrative control of the District and Subordinate courts in the country vests with the respective High Courts and State Governments as per the provisions of article 235 of the Constitution.